

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Serge SAINT-DIZIER

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

COATING METHOD AND A
CORRESPONDING PARTPRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend
the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel all the claims now in the application and add
the following new claims:

20. A method of manufacturing a coated part (2), in particular for a motor vehicle, the part being of the type comprising a structure (4) for injected plastics material coated in at least a first zone of its surface by a main coating (6) and in at least a second zone of its surface by a secondary coating (14), said second surface zone being surrounded on at least a fraction of its periphery by said first zone, the method being characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- cutting out a main blank (22) for the main coating (6) to a size greater than the area of said first zone, thereby providing a clamping margin (24);

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- cutting out a secondary blank (30) for the secondary coating (14) to a size and a shape corresponding substantially to said second zone;
- securing the secondary blank (30) to the main blank (22) on an area of said main blank (22) that is to remain visible, in a location that corresponds to said second zone;
- placing the assembly comprising the main blank (22) and the secondary blank (30) on a clamping frame (64) in a mold (52), which frame positions the clamping margin (24) of the main blank (22);
- closing the mold (52), with the assembly comprising the main blank (22) and the secondary blank (30) being shaped during closure to take up the shape of the mold (52), at least in part;
- overmolding the plastics material (4) onto the assembly comprising the main blank (22) and the secondary blank (30) on the side of the main blank (22) opposite from the secondary blank (30);
- allowing the plastics material (4) to set, and unmolding the structure as a whole; and
- cutting off the clamping margin (24) of the main blank (22).

--21. (new) A method according to claim 20, characterized in that the secondary blank (30) is secured to the main blank by adhesive.

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--22. (new) A method according to claim 20, characterized in that the main blank (22) and the secondary blank (30) are stretched, at least in part, simultaneously during closure of the mold (52).

--23. (new) A method according to claim 20, characterized in that it further comprises the following steps:

- positioning a strip (90) of plastics foam on the main blank (22) in a zone lying within said second zone; and
- securing the secondary blank (30) to the visible surface of the main blank (22) so as to cover the foam strip (90) at least in part, and preferably completely.

--24. (new) A method according to claim 23, characterized in that the foam strip (90) is secured to the main blank (22).

--25. (new) A method according to claim 24, characterized in that the foam strip (90) is secured to the main blank by adhesive.

--26. (new) A method according to claim 23, characterized in that the foam strip (90) is sandwiched between the main blank (22) and the secondary blank (30), and in that the strip (90) is surrounded at least in part and preferably completely by a marginal region of the secondary blank (22).

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--27. (new) A method according to claim 20, characterized in that the main blank (22) is held around its entire periphery in the clamping frame (64).

--28. (new) A method according to claim 20, for manufacturing a part that is partially coated in the main coating on one side, the method being characterized in that the main blank (22) is cut out to a shape whose outline on one side (92) corresponds to the boundary (84) between the main coating (6) and the non-coated portion (82), and in that the clamping margin (24) is provided on the other sides of the blank.

--29. (new) A method according to claim 27, characterized in that the main blank (22) is substantially rectangular in shape.

--30. (new) A method according to claim 20, characterized in that it further comprises the following steps:

- fixing the main blank (22) in a matrix (42) in a defined position;
 - fixing the secondary blank (30) in a recess in a punch (46) for co-operating with a matrix (42), the recess being complementary in shape to the secondary blank (30) and being situated at a location that corresponds to the location of the secondary blank (30) on the main blank (22);
 - applying the punch (46) against the matrix (42);
- and

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- withdrawing the punch (46) and withdrawing the assembly comprising the main blank (22) and the secondary blank (30) from the matrix (42).

--31. (new) A method according to claim 20, characterized in that a common reference system is used for all of the operations of positioning the parts relative to one another.

--32. (new) A method according to claim 20, characterized in that a thermal protection sheet (31) for the main blank (22) and for the secondary blank (30) is secured, in particular by adhesive, on the surface of the main blank (22) opposite from the secondary blank (30).

--33. (new) A part manufactured by a method according to claim 20, characterized in that the part includes a groove (18) formed in the coated surface, and in that the outline of the groove (18) corresponds substantially to the outline of said secondary coating (14) and receives the edge (16) of said secondary coating, so as to hide it.

--34. (new) A coated part according to claim 33, the part being characterized in that it includes a groove (86) formed in the coated surface and receiving the free edge (92) of the main coating (22) so as to hide it.

--35. (new) A coated part according to claim 33, characterized in that it includes a thermal protection sheet

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(31) for protecting the main blank (22) and the secondary blank (30), which sheet is fixed to the surface of the main blank (22) opposite from the secondary blank (30).

--36. (new) A coated part according to claim 33, the part being characterized in that it includes a strip (90) of plastics foam clamped between the main coating (6) and the secondary coating (14).

--37. (new) A coated part according to claim 33, characterized in that it forms an inside panel (2) for a motor vehicle door.

--38. (new) A coated part according to claim 36, characterized in that it includes an armrest-forming zone (12), and in that the strip (90) of plastics foam lies in the armrest-forming zone (12).

Respectfully submitted,

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A B S T R A C T

A method of manufacturing a coated part comprising a structure (4) of injected plastics material coated in a main coating (6) and in a secondary coating (14) which is surrounded by the surface of the first coating. The method comprising the following steps: sticking a secondary blank (30) on the visible surface of a main blank (22); placing the assembly comprising the main blank and the secondary blank in a mold (52) on a clamping frame (64) which holds a clamping margin (24) of the main blank (22); shaping both blanks simultaneously on closing the mold; and overmolding the plastics material against the assembly comprising the main blank and the secondary blank on the side of the main blank opposite from the secondary blank. The method is applicable to making inside panels for vehicle doors.